

NOT NECESSARILY IN THE NEWS

A Community Newsletter and Commentary for South Lake Tahoe September 5, 2022 - Volume 98

“Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.”

Peter Drucker

“BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS...”



History has shown that Mikhail Gorbachev was not a saint, and no leaders are, but he was a man who chose peace and negotiations over war and death. He, President Reagan, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher achieved an opening of dialogue and discussion between world powers instead of war. How different the world might be today if he were leader of Russia. Thank you, Mr. Gorbachev!

Let us all hope and pray for peace in Ukraine.

LABOR DAY

Labor Day in the U.S. had a slow start in becoming a national holiday in all 50 states and the Nation. **“Labor Day is a [federal holiday in the United States](#) celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the [American labor movement](#) and the works and contributions of [laborers](#) to the development and achievements of the [United States](#)...”**



The people who developed this country worked hard to make American a place of opportunity for those who worked hard and managed their finances. There are stories of course of hardship and lack of fairness, but eventually America prospered because of the hard work of Americans and those who worked alongside them. I

worry about the health if the American work ethic as we see many jobs open with few people applying for them. We must strive to recreate the work ethic because it gives us self-worth and promotes economic prosperity and growth. *We cannot allow our jobs to be shipped overseas because of greed or a loss of America’s will to work.*

Thanks to all those who work and give their best efforts to support their families and make our Nation prosperous.

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THOSE IN NEED- *Kudos to the Governor and California Legislature*

I’ve written previously about the need in California for a better system to treat those who need mental health services, whether they be in families or homeless. We cannot in good conscience as a society do nothing to help.

I applauded the Governor previously for introducing mental health reforms, and now the Legislature has given their blessing. The excerpt from the **SF Chronicle** below speaks to the issue. An important component of this plan that must be continued State funding for counties to continue the program over time.

“California will launch Care Court program to get severely mentally ill people into treatment



[Sophia Bollag](#), Aug. 31, 2022 Updated: Aug. 31, 2022, 7:59 p.m.

Elizabeth Kaino Hopper, a supporter of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s plan to create a CARE Court system, attends a rally at the California Capitol in Sacramento, Calif. on Aug. 1, 2022.

SACRAMENTO — California is poised to create a new system to get severely mentally ill people into treatment called CARE Court, which family members of

people with psychotic disorders say they hope will help them save their loved ones from suffering on the streets.

California lawmakers passed the legislation to create CARE Court on Wednesday, sending it to Gov. Gavin Newsom, who sponsored the bill and is expected to sign it soon.

The measure, [SB1338](#), will create a new way for family, community members, probation officers and others to refer people with severe mental illness into treatment. Under the system, judges would order people to participate in treatment plans and require counties to provide services to them.

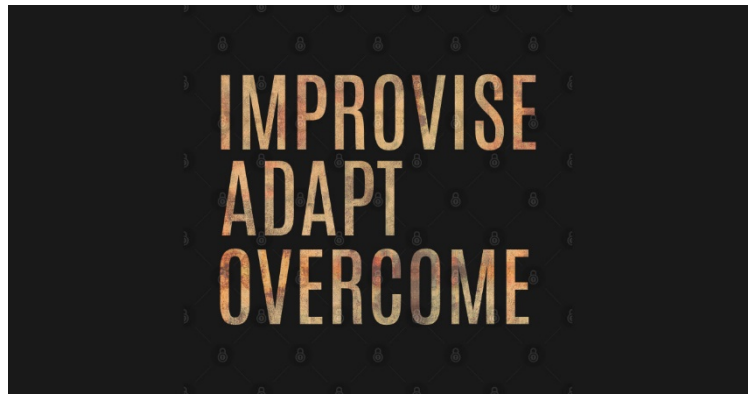
The bill was amended to take effect in two waves instead of all at once. First, an initial group of counties representing at least half of California’s 40 million residents will start the program by July 2023. The rest will start the program by July 2024.

In response to worries from local governments that the proposal didn’t include adequate money to support the new system, Newsom and lawmakers added \$57 million in funding through the state budget...”

ELIMINATING WEEDS AND ALGAE NEEDS A NEW APPROACH BASED ON CHANGING CONDITIONS – regulators need to “improvise, adapt and overcome” and let us fix the problem

This summer by all accounts has produced invasive weeds, algae, and bad smells around the South Shore. Some people say not to worry. It will go away. Others like me are worried, because I am aware of toxic algae issues elsewhere in the State as reported widely in the media. Local social media is replete with comments about the situation, and most of them are not good.

Some people blame the TKPOA for the condition because they say the Keys should never have been built in the first place. *However*, most people who live in the Keys today purchased homes a long time after the Keys were built by the developer. I am told, as well, that until 1997, the TKPOA operated a treatment plant to clean the waters in the lagoons and Lake Tallac. The plant site and pumps still exist at the end of Texas Avenue.



While I have my concerns with the current Board of TKPOA over the drinking water issue, the TKPOA is not to blame for the snail pace effort being made to address the invasive weeds. The invasive weeds and algae issues are being addressed here together.

What has happened is that the regulatory agencies in the Basin responsible for water quality, the LRWQCB and TRPA decided to set standards for water quality after chemical treatment of the weeds, which are well above drinking water standards. Meeting this standard, if possible, will take time, money, and years. Well, the reality is that the invasive weed conditions and now algae are getting worse, not better. What do regional officials do to respond to changing conditions that demand a more aggressive approach to removal you ask, nothing. In fact, with one exception by Julie Regan of TRPA, officials (including the El Dorado County Health Officer) regulatory and health officials do not respond to the questions of safety of the growing weed and algae problems. It is their job to respond! All of us want to know.

Regional officials need to recognize the changing and worsening conditions of the weeds and Lake and make appropriate changes to address the changing conditions. Regional officials need to *“improvise, adapt, and overcome”* to changing conditions and the City and County elected officials on the TRPA Board need to demand this happens. Do not just sit there, *do something!* This is not business as usual even though I do appreciate the support of these agencies for allowing exploration of a treatment process that is still undefined.

I suspect and have voiced on several occasions that after years of study, millions of dollars spent, and worsening of the problem, regulators and TKPOA will decide that the water treatment system discarded in 1997 is not such a bad idea. *They need to energetically examine this solution now.*

Regional regulators need to adapt to new conditions. Do not blame this matter on the TKPOA members or Board.

WE NEED COMMON SENSE WHEN BUDGETING- *spend the money first where it is most needed.*



I know a lot about local government budgeting. I presented over 35 balanced budgets to city councils in my career. I know that budgeting can be difficult, especially in financially stressed times. However, elected, and appointed leaders need to learn something that households do every day. Live within your budgets. Set priorities of those things that are the most urgent and necessary, and then budget funds to address the highest priorities. This is only common sense. Let me give you an illustration. City streets by and large are

a mess. They are not maintained (i.e., potholes filled, cracks in the streets filled, and slurry seal). on an annual basis and proper drainage of our roads is hard to find. The approach the City is taking is to allow the streets to crumble and then pronounce that a few of them will be reconstructed one day. If the streets were regularly maintained and repaired on a City-wide basis, reconstruction would not be needed for a much longer time. The cost of maintenance is less than the cost to reconstruct. Caltrans does an excellent job fixing and repairing our highways in Tahoe, and we can learn from that example.

I like and appreciate new bike lanes being installed. I am a rider and enjoy a nicely paved area unless I am in the mountains. *However, the existing road system needs to be fixed first and then look at what monies might be available for bike trails that themselves are supposed to be maintained.*

This is only common sense, and by fixing the roads we will experience less wear and tear on our suspension system whether the vehicle is electric or not.

Don't misunderstand me on this one. The problem is not with our street repair crew. They want to do an excellent job. They just need the funds for proper staffing, materials, proper machinery, and training.

TALKING ABOUT FIRE SAFETY ONLY AT ELECTION TIME DOESN'T CUT IT ANYMORE – hold State and Federal officials accountable.

As we get closer to election time, a lot of people are talking about making us fire safe. The fact is, for the most part, that this talk subsides after the election, because no policy maker wants to empower City staff to tackle the dangerous fire conditions that exist on CTC and USFS lands inside the City limits. Elected officials past and present have waited too long and allowed these large landowners to keep their lands in an unsafe condition. But they will tell you, "we are all getting along so well." Getting along is not getting the job done to make our City fire safe. The City Council must demand of State and Federal landowners that they regularly see that their parcels in the City limits are fire safe, and our residents will see a more fire safe city.



MICRO GIFT TO DOUGLAS COUNTY?

In a recent briefing for candidates for City Council, a question was asked who is paying for the new Micro-Transit System that started up and runs in Douglas and El Dorado County. Private parties and the City of South Lake Tahoe are paying the bill. Douglas County that receives a lot of benefit from the new development is paying \$0. Frankly, I would rather see the City's \$150,000 per year contribution to this system be allocated to better maintain City street every year especially if Douglas County won't pay for their own system,

In general, I like the idea and practicality of smaller demand responsive busses instead of the LA type huge busses seen riding with few passengers around town, but it is only fair to expect that Douglas County pay its fair share.

I asked the Douglas County Manager the following question on 9-1-22.



Dear Mr. Cates:

Thank you for your service to Douglas County. I enjoy many of your services there.

I am running for a seat on the South Lake Tahoe City Council. As a former City Chief Executive, I know that governance in the Tahoe

Region is different and challenging. The reward is of course the beautiful place where we live and recreate.

I attended a City Council Candidate briefing yesterday put on by City management staff, and I learned that among many parties, Douglas County is the only governmental agency that does not contribute funds for the operation of the newly established micro-transit buses running on both sides of Stateline. It occurs to me that the new convention center there will be of great value and benefit to Douglas County.

Would you be at liberty to tell me whether Douglas County will be contributing to the costs to operate this system, and if not, can you share your reasons for not doing so. I would value and appreciate your insight into the matter.

I want to see cooperation and collaboration between our City and your County on matters of mutual interest, mutual benefit, and concern.

Thank you and best wishes for continued success.

David Jinkens, MPA

SCHOOL OFFICIALS WANT GOVERNOR TO VETO BILL REQUIRING SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS TO USE AMERICAN GROWN FOOD

In the most absurd posting I have seen, the media is reporting, "One day after the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 490, a bill requiring California K-12 schools, community colleges and California State Universities to purchase mostly U.S.-grown food for school-provided meals, Los Angeles Unified superintendent Alberto Carvalho, the California School Boards Association and others are calling on Gov. Gavin Newsom to veto it."

They argue that requiring American grown food will drive up their food costs. They forget that American farmers and workers need help. Public monies spent should support American workers and American businesses.

MY PLEDGE TO SOUTH LAKE TAHOE VOTERS IF ELECTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- **FIX AND MAINTAIN** THE STREETS NOW AND ON AN ANNUAL BASIS – funding for this program must be done now and not forgotten.
- **NO NEW TAXES** ON PEOPLE OR BUSINESSES STRAPPED WITH THIS POOR NATIONAL ECONOMY, AND HIGH INFLATION. THEY ARE TAXED ENOUGH!
- **LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS**, AND SPEND AVAILABLE MONIES ON THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES
- **SUPPORT AND PRESERVE** QUALITY WORKFORCE HOUSING AND DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE MAKE NEEDED SAFETY REPAIRS TO THEIR HOMES. - Housing for our workforce must take priority.



- **FINISH THE HOLE IN THE GROUND**- WE NEED TO WORK WITH OWNERS TO MAKE IT SO, AND THERE ARE PROGRAMS TO DO SO. The owners need to be motivated to act, The hole does nothing for them or the community.
- **PROTECT THE COMMUNITY**, LAKE, AND OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM ALL THREATS TO SAFETY -safety first from all threats must be a top priority of locally elected officials, If there is a threat in our community it is our job to see that it is addressed. Quit saying there is nothing we can do!
- **MAKE SOUTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE SAFE** – *The greatest threat to our environment, residents, and local economy is catastrophic fire. We cannot allow it to happen here,*
- **LISTEN WHEN RESIDENTS COME TO YOU FOR HELP!** – *It is the job of City officials to listen and try and help address resident fears and concerns,*
- **ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A CUSTOMER AND BUSINESS FRIENDLY ORGANIZATION**

WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY AND OUR ENVIRONMENT.

“SI, PODEMOS”
(Yes, we can)

djinkens4council@gmail.com

VOTE FOR DAVID JINKENS!
On November 8, 2022
Let me work for you on the SLT City Council
Results with Resolve